



NEWS

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STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES TO SHARE \$301 MILLION IN EXCISE TAX RECEIPTS

As a part of one of America's oldest and most successful wildlife conservation programs, state fish and wildlife agencies will share in \$301.4 million in excise taxes paid by America's hunters, target shooters, boaters, and anglers, Acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Rogers announced today.

The states will use the money for fish and wildlife conservation through land acquisition, habitat improvement, research, education, and other programs. The funds also will help pay for hunting education programs, boating access, and other fish- and wildlife-related recreation projects.

"Hunters, anglers, and other sportsmen and -women continue to contribute the lion's share of the funding for fish and wildlife conservation in America," Rogers said. "The hundreds of millions of dollars they pay in excise taxes and license fees are the backbone of state efforts to conserve our fish and wildlife resources for future generations."

In the 1930s, hunters themselves took the rare step of lobbying Congress to impose the excise taxes on themselves because they believed so strongly in the need for conservation, Rogers noted. Anglers followed suit in 1950. During the past 60 years, the two programs have raised more than \$5 billion to support conservation, hunter education, and boating access efforts by states.

The money is distributed to the states for projects proposed by the states and approved by the Service. Federal Aid funds pay up to 75 percent of the cost of each project while the states contribute at least 25 percent of the cost.

Preliminary apportionments are provided to the states based on receipts for the first 9 months of the year. Because they do not represent the total available for the year, they may vary greatly from year to year.

The preliminary apportionment for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs for fiscal year 1997 totals \$123.4 million. The money is derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10-percent tax on pistols and revolvers, and an 11-percent tax on certain archery equipment. One-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment is made available for state hunter education and safety programs.

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The preliminary apportionment for sport fish restoration for FY 1997 totals \$178 million. This funding results from a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment and a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders. The Wallop-Breaux legislation of 1984 increased the tax base for sport fish restoration to include a portion of the Federal fuels tax and importation duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Distribution of sport fish restoration funds to the states is based on the land and water area and the number of fishing license holders in each state. Wildlife restoration funds are made available based on land area and the number of hunting license holders in each state. Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state.

The attached tables show the allocation of the preliminary apportionment for fiscal year 1997. Final apportionments will be announced in the spring of 1997.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency with responsibility for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages 511 national wildlife refuges encompassing 92 million acres, as well as 72 national fish hatcheries. It enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, stocks recreational fisheries, conserves and restores wetlands and other wildlife habitat, protects and restores endangered species, and helps foreign governments with conservation efforts.

**PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997**

STATE	WILDLIFE RESTORATION	HUNTER EDUCATION	TOTAL
ALABAMA	1,701,057	500,369	2,201,426
ALASKA	5,107,081	212,975	5,320,056
ARIZONA	2,408,860	453,886	2,862,746
ARKANSAS	1,876,932	212,975	2,089,907
CALIFORNIA	3,695,038	638,932	4,333,970
COLORADO	2,607,889	407,964	3,015,853
CONNECTICUT	510,708	407,063	917,771
DELAWARE	510,708	212,975	723,683
FLORIDA	1,525,704	638,926	2,164,630
GEORGIA	2,059,689	638,926	2,698,615
HAWAII	510,708	212,975	723,683
IDAHO	2,086,824	212,975	2,299,799
ILLINOIS	1,936,814	638,926	2,575,740
INDIANA	1,648,605	638,926	2,287,531
IOWA	1,740,778	343,862	2,084,640
KANSAS	1,912,070	212,975	2,125,045
KENTUCKY	1,567,242	456,372	2,023,614
LOUISIANA	1,613,331	522,584	2,135,915
MAINE	1,179,310	212,975	1,392,285
MARYLAND	648,867	592,117	1,240,984
MASSACHUSETTS	510,708	638,926	1,149,634
MICHIGAN	3,916,651	638,926	4,555,577
MINNESOTA	3,187,303	541,794	3,729,097
MISSISSIPPI	1,548,432	318,656	1,867,088
MISSOURI	2,552,740	633,677	3,186,417
MONTANA	3,291,875	212,975	3,504,850
NEBRASKA	1,827,706	212,975	2,040,681
NEVADA	1,943,967	212,975	2,156,942
NEW HAMPSHIRE	510,708	212,975	723,683
NEW JERSEY	510,708	638,926	1,149,634
NEW MEXICO	2,306,267	212,975	2,519,242
NEW YORK	3,087,677	638,926	3,726,603
NORTH CAROLINA	2,014,785	638,926	2,653,711
NORTH DAKOTA	1,470,312	212,975	1,683,287
OHIO	2,381,783	638,926	3,020,709
OKLAHOMA	1,974,599	389,535	2,364,134
OREGON	2,531,486	351,981	2,883,467
PENNSYLVANIA	4,356,279	638,926	4,995,205
RHODE ISLAND	510,708	212,975	723,683
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,190,825	431,779	1,622,604
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,903,067	212,975	2,116,042
TENNESSEE	2,587,808	603,970	3,191,778
TEXAS	5,107,081	638,926	5,746,007
UTAH	1,887,841	212,975	2,100,816
VERMONT	510,708	212,975	723,683
VIRGINIA	1,774,461	638,926	2,413,387
WASHINGTON	2,063,594	602,671	2,666,265
WEST VIRGINIA	1,280,334	212,975	1,493,309
WISCONSIN	3,398,852	605,776	4,004,628
WYOMING	1,962,493	212,975	2,175,468
PUERTO RICO	510,708	0	510,708
GUAM	170,236	35,496	205,732
VIRGIN ISLANDS	170,236	35,496	205,732
AMERICAN SAMOA	170,236	35,496	205,732
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	170,236	35,496	205,732
TOTAL	102,141,625	21,297,535	123,439,160

**PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997**

ALABAMA	2,782,966
ALASKA	8,902,363
ARIZONA	3,784,173
ARKANSAS	2,938,043
CALIFORNIA	8,902,331
COLORADO	4,427,164
CONNECTICUT	1,780,473
DELAWARE	1,780,473
FLORIDA	4,639,808
GEORGIA	3,261,382
HAWAII	1,780,473
IDAHO	3,015,213
ILLINOIS	3,749,886
INDIANA	2,787,248
IOWA	2,444,737
KANSAS	2,632,834
KENTUCKY	2,651,388
LOUISIANA	3,007,038
MAINE	1,780,473
MARYLAND	1,997,492
MASSACHUSETTS	1,780,473
MICHIGAN	6,570,506
MINNESOTA	6,584,802
MISSISSIPPI	2,290,778
MISSOURI	4,597,509
MONTANA	4,205,050
NEBRASKA	2,302,844
NEVADA	2,730,264
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,780,473
NEW JERSEY	1,780,473
NEW MEXICO	3,204,345
NEW YORK	4,512,262
NORTH CAROLINA	2,889,511
NORTH DAKOTA	1,780,473
OHIO	4,027,990
OKLAHOMA	3,152,830
OREGON	4,228,599
PENNSYLVANIA	4,603,042
RHODE ISLAND	1,780,473
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,225,915
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,210,636
TENNESSEE	3,859,514
TEXAS	8,902,363
UTAH	3,341,379
VERMONT	1,780,473
VIRGINIA	2,863,916
WASHINGTON	4,030,063
WEST VIRGINIA	1,780,473
WISCONSIN	5,602,939
WYOMING	2,852,988
PUERTO RICO	1,780,473
GUAM	593,491
VIRGIN ISLANDS	593,491
AMERICAN SAMOA	593,491
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	593,491
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	593,491
TOTAL	178,047,242